

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held in the Council Chamber, The Court House, High Street, Nairn on Monday 25 May 2026 at 10.00 am.

Present:

Mr L Fraser
Mr M Green

Ms B Jarvie
Mr P Oldham

In attendance:

Mr L Hannah, Community Development Manager
Ms C MacKenzie, Principal Housing Officer
Mr J MacLean, Bereavement Services Manager
Ms P Sheldon, Senior Environmental Officer
Ms C Strachan, Pensions Manager
Ms J MacLennan, Joint Democratic Services Manager
Ms K Arnott, Committee Officer

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.

Mr M Green in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/ Aithris Fhollaiseachd

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements.

3. Good News Naidheachdan Matha

The Committee **NOTED** the following Good News:

- Members welcomed the installation of the new slide and ship as part of the Nairn Links play park equipment. It was agreed that engagement would take place with local schools to organise a naming competition for the ship, and the Nairn Common Good Flag would be installed;
- Members commended the street art at a shelter in Nairn, noting pupils from Nairn Academy had selected a local artist from Forres to undertake the work; and
- Members acknowledged the visit by the Stoltman Brothers to Nairn Academy where they gave an inspirational talk to the local pupils on their achievements.

4. Housing Management Performance Report up to 31 March 2026 Aithisg Choileanaidh Taigheadais - 31 Màrt 2026

There had been circulated Report No NC/09/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:

- Members commented on the level of rent arrears, in particular the positive stability of the figures. It was suggested that this might have been the result of the increased accessibility of the Service Point, especially the more accessible hours;
- information was sought, and provided, on the length of time individuals spent in temporary accommodation, and whether this could be reduced. Members were informed that the service was operating within the constraints of available housing stock; however, the figure remained unchanged from previous reports. Every effort would be made to bring this figure down where possible;
- the importance of regular meetings between the Housing Team and Police Scotland was encouraged to ensure information regarding antisocial behaviour was shared effectively and accurately; and
- Members queried the new housing being built at Delnies and Tornagrain and whether Housing would have any involvement in these properties. Members were informed that the properties would be managed by Cairn Housing; however, the Housing Team would be able to nominate eligible applicants although there was no guarantee of allocation to any individual client.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026.

5. Bereavement Services – Project Updates Cunntas às ùr mu sheirbheisean bàis

There had been circulated Report No NC/10/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:

- Members queried the rationale for purchasing a new site at Gregorhill when there was up to 10 years' capacity remaining at the original site. The purchase was historical however the additional capacity at the original site had become available only following ground clearance; and
- as there were no challenges within the Nairn area for identifying or developing suitable land for burial the second recommendation was not required.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the current capacities and progress of burial ground extensions in the Nairnshire area.

6. Environmental Health – Annual Report & Activity 2025/2026
Slàinte Àrainneachdail – Aithisg Bhliadhnail & Gnìomhachd 2025/26

There had been circulated Report No NC/11/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

The Committee **AGREED to DEFER** the item to the next meeting.

7. Nairn Common Good Fund – Annual Review
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann

There had been circulated Report No NC/12/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:

- clarification was sought on the charging framework uplift linked to RPI and Members were informed this would generate approximately £16,000 a year for the Common Good Fund;
- the Chair spoke of the Nairn Highland Games, highlighting efforts to create a safer event. Highland Council had responsibility for funding and infrastructure with the support of local charities including the Nairn Book & Arts Festive, SSAFA-Armed Forces Charity, Nairn CAB, St John Scotland and Mikeysline as well as the Nairn Highland Games Committee;
- funding of up to £21,000 would be allocated to support the Games. It was anticipated that the event would break even; however, a modest surplus might be achievable;
- Members supported the use of the Nairn Bandstand as a welfare and communication hub; and
- clarification was sought, and provided, regarding responsibility for grounds maintenance at the event. This work had previously been undertaken by private contractors appointed by the Nairn Highland Games Committee, and the same arrangement would be in place for this year's Highland Games.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the progress over the last 12 months in relation to the Nairn Common Good Fund projects detailed within section 5 of the report;
- ii. **AGREED** the installation of the artwork proposed for the Nairn Common Good land at the Riverside as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- iii. **NOTED** the update in respect of the 2026 Nairn Highland Games within section 7 of the report; and
- iv. **NOTED** the review of the Nairn Common Good Lettings Framework and **AGREED** the revised charging structure for 2026/27 detailed at Appendix 2 of the report.

8. **Ward 18 Discretionary Fund**
Buidseat Fo Ùghdarras Uàird

Having requested that the balance be circulated, the Committee **NOTED** the following Ward Discretionary Fund payments that had been approved since the previous meeting of this Committee:

Applicant	Project	WDF Award
Nairn Academy Parent Council	Seating at new Academy (Sakura reflection area)	£2,800.00
Nairn BID	Seagull Prevention	£3,000.00
Nairn BID	Seafront noticeboard renovation	£254.48
Nairn West & Suburban Community Council	Cold Caller Control Zone	£697.20
Laikenbuie Ecology Trust	Woodland Diversification Tools	£792.50
Nairn Academy Parent Council	"Schools Out" Farewell to old school building	£2,000.00

9. **Minutes**
Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 9 February 2026 which were approved by the Council on 26 March 2026.

10. **Exclusion of the Public**
Às-dùnadh a' Phobail

The Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

11. **Nairn Common Good Fund – Investment Strategy and Benchmarks**
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Ro-innleachd agus Slatan-tomhais Tasgaidh

There had been circulated to **Members only** Confidential Report No NC/13/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

Following discussion, while **AGREEING** the recommendations, Members requested a summary report be made available at the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10.35am